DOCKET NO.: MSFT-1969 (303316.1)   PATENT
Application No.: 09/645,014   REPLY FILED UNDER EXPEDITED
Office Action Dated: January 29, 2004   PROCEDURE PURSUANT TO
                                              37 CFR § 1.116

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims:

1.   (currently amended) A method for installing software on a selected one of a number of server computer systems, the method comprising:

    (a) retrieving a template which specifies one or more parameters specifying an aspect of the software and which includes placeholder data in place of <u>all</u> server-specific data<u>, wherein the placeholder data exists in program modules, configuration data files, or installation scripts</u>;

    (b) retrieving server-specific data for the selected server<u>, wherein the template and server-specific data are retrieved from a service and package interdependency database that maintains relationships and associates various types of software with server-specific data</u>;

    (c) replacing the placeholder data of the template with the server-specific data of the selected server to form installation data; and

    (d) sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that causes the selected server to install the software in accordance with the installation data.

2.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the template includes one or more configuration data files.

3.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the template includes one or more installation scripts, each of which includes one or more computer instructions which are to be executed by the selected server to effect installation of the software.

4.   (original) The method of Claim 3 wherein (d) sending comprises:

    sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that causes the selected server to install the software by, at least in part, executing the one or more installation scripts.

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5.   (original) The method of Claim 4 wherein (d) sending further comprises: sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that enables the selected server to verify that the one or more installation scripts are owned by a previously authorized owner prior to installing the software by, at least in part, executing the one or more installation scripts.

6.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the template includes one or more computer program modules which define at least part of the software to be installed on the selected server.

7.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the server-specific data specifies a computer network address of the selected server.

8.   (original) The method of Claim 7 wherein the computer network address is an IP address.

9.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the server-specific data specifies a name which identifies the selected server.

10.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein (d) sending comprises:
       sending the installation data through a computer network to the selected
server.

11.   (original) The method of Claim 10 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

12.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein (d) sending comprises:
       sending the installation data to a predetermined storage location within the
selected server.

13.   (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the selected server is configured to detect installation data stored at the predetermined storage location and to process the installation data upon such detection.

14.   (original) The method of Claim 12 wherein the predetermined storage location is a predetermined directory within the selected server.

15.   (original) The method of Claim 1 wherein the selected server is configured to delete the installation data after installation of the software in accordance with the installation data.

16.   (currently amended) A computer-readable storage medium on which is stored computer instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to install software on a selected one of a number of server computer systems by:

    (a) retrieving a template which specifies one or more parameters specifying an aspect of the software and which includes placeholder data in place of all server-specific data, wherein the placeholder data exists in program modules, configuration data files, or installation scripts;

    (b) retrieving server-specific data for the selected server, wherein the template and server-specific data are retrieved from a service and package interdependency database that maintains relationships and associates various types of software with server-specific data;

    (c) replacing the placeholder data of the template with the server-specific data of the selected server to form installation data; and

    (d) sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that causes the selected server to install the software in accordance with the installation data.

17.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein the template includes one or more configuration data files.

18.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein the template includes one or more installation scripts, each of which includes one or more computer instructions which are to be executed by the selected server to effect installation of the software.

19.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 18 wherein (d) sending comprises:

> sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that causes the selected server to install the software by, at least in part, executing the one or more installation scripts.

20.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 19 wherein (d) sending further comprises:

> sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that enables the selected server to verify that the one or more installation scripts are owned by a previously authorized owner prior to installing the software by, at least in part, executing the one or more installation scripts.

21.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein the template includes one or more computer program modules which define at least part of the software to be installed on the selected server.

22.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein the server-specific data specifies a computer network address of the selected server.

23.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 22 wherein the computer network address is an IP address.

24.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein the server-specific data specifies a name which identifies the selected server.

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25.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein (d) sending comprises:

          sending the installation data through a computer network to the selected server.

26.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 25 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

27.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein (d) sending-comprises:

          sending the installation data to a predetermined storage location within the selected server.

28.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27 wherein the selected server is configured to detect installation data stored at the predetermined storage location and to process the installation data upon such detection.

29.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 27 wherein the predetermined storage location is a predetermined directory within the selected server.

30.   (original) The computer-readable storage medium of Claim 16 wherein the selected server is configured to delete the installation data after installation of the software in accordance with the installation data.

31.   (currently amended) A computer system comprising:

          a processor;

          a memory coupled to the processor, the memory including a service and package interdependency database in which templates for various types of software are recorded and associated with server-specific data; and

a software deployment module which executes in the processor from the
memory and which, when executed, installs software on a selected one of a number of
server computer systems by:

(a) retrieving a template from the service and package interdependency
database which specifies one or more parameters specifying an aspect of the software
and which includes placeholder data in place of server-specific data;

(b) retrieving server-specific data from the service and package
interdependency database for the selected server;

(c) replacing the placeholder data of the template with the server-
specific data of the selected server to form installation data; and

(d) sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner
that causes the selected server to install the software in accordance with the
installation data.

32.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein the template includes
one or more configuration data files.

33.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein the template includes
one or more installation scripts, each of which includes one or more computer instructions
which are to be executed by the selected server to effect installation of the software.

34.   (original) The computer system of Claim 33 wherein (d) sending comprises:
        sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that causes
the selected server to install the software by, at least in part, executing the one or more
installation scripts.

35.   (original) The computer system of Claim 34 wherein (d) sending further
comprises:
        sending the installation data to the selected server in such a manner that
enables the selected server to verify that the one or more installation scripts are owned

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by a previously authorized owner prior to installing the software by, at least in part, executing the one or more installation scripts.

36.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein the template includes one or more computer program modules which define at least part of the software to be installed on the selected server.

37.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein the server-specific data specifies a computer network address of the selected server.

38.   (original) The computer system of Claim 37 wherein the computer network address is an IP address.

39.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein the server-specific data specifies a name which identifies the selected server.

40.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein (d) sending comprises:
        sending the installation data through a computer network to the selected
server.

41.   (original) The computer system of Claim 40 wherein the computer network is the Internet.

42.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein (d) sending comprises:
        sending the installation data to a predetermined storage location within the
selected server.

43.   (original) The computer system of Claim 42 wherein the selected server is configured to detect installation data stored at the predetermined storage location and to process the installation data upon such detection.

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44.   (original) The computer system of Claim 42 wherein the predetermined storage location is a predetermined directory within the selected server.

45.   (original) The computer system of Claim 31 wherein the selected server is configured to delete the installation data after installation of the software in accordance with the installation data.